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May 2026

CULTURE CRINGE

THE MAGIC ISSUE

Includes: Tales Of Suspense, Magic, and Intrigue!

An Editorial Not To Be Reckoned WITH!!

May Day 2026 Survival Guide
.invaluable info!!

Includes An Interview With ZABRECKY!!!

HERE, LEMME SHOW YOU A TRICK! *POOOOOF*
A NEW ZINE MATERIALIZES RIGHT BEFORE YOU

Welcome to the MAGIC ISSUE, and the real act of magic is that I actually found time to get this one put together! I've been busier than a bee lately. Speaking of bees, have you seen many out and about this season?? I've only seen a few. Maybe it has something to do with where I've been hanging around? Either way I sure would like to see more of those little dudes. Anything but wasps and ~~mosquitwoos~~ mosquitoes.

I used to be known as someone who would occasionally do a magic show here and there. My act was called the WonderFOOL World of Magic. Most of my tricks didn't work, but there was one that I nailed every time. It was always at the end. So what I would do is fumble my way through my act, messing up tricks, guessing the wrong card, dropping props, etc.....then at the end I would do this one trick that would make everyone shit their pants! Well not really, but it would get quite the reaction. It would even surprise me - I would always look as shocked as the crowd after the reveal. I've been thinking about doing a magic show again. It could be fun. Would you come to it?

When I was a kid, that magician David Copperfield used to do a lot of PRIME TIME television specials where he would do some absolutely bonkers magic stunts. Like. I think he made the Statue of Liberty disappear once, made a car levitate, made a FREAKIN PLANE disappear, blew up the moon, stuff like that. Easy stuff. Anyways in one special he walked THROUGH the Great Wall of China. It was wild. I remember them having a heart monitor on him and you could hear it beep beep beeping while he magically walked through the ancient wall. At one point it stopped beeping and I swear we all thought dude died. I was so terrified. I think that instance led to me having even more medical anxiety than I already had as a child. I remember looking at my mom and asking: IS HE OK? She just shrugged said she didn't know and walked out of the room. Turns out, he didn't REALLY have a heart monitor on. It was all SMOKE AND MIRRORS. Now I got trust issues. FOR LIFE.

Here, use this space to write down your favorite songs that have the word MAGIC in the title

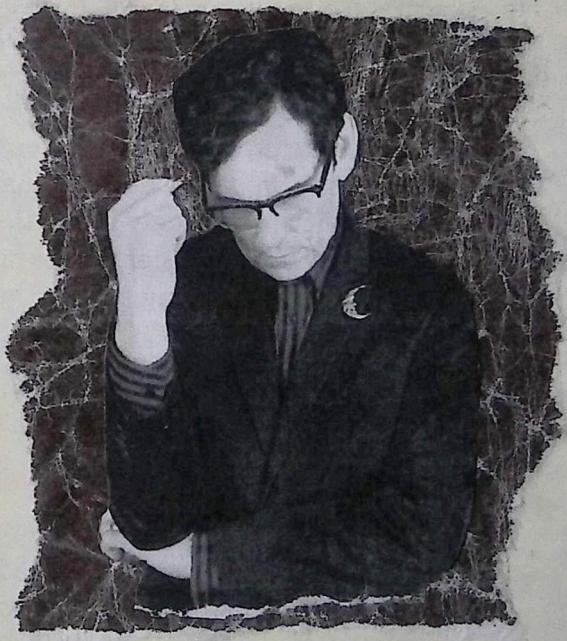
AND NOW FOR A VERY SPECIAL

INTERVIEW!!

- WITH -

MY ABSOLUTE FAVOURITE MAGICIAN..

ZABRECKY!



It seems as if Rob Zabrecky can do it all: he fronted a very popular 90s alternative band (Possum Dixon), he's been in some really awesome movies and TV shows (A Ghost Story, Lost River, and Fallout to name a few), and most amazingly he's a super accomplished magician and mentalist!!! He has performed at the Magic Castle in LA for years, appeared on Penn and Teller: Fool Us, and even released a vinyl record where he instructs you on how to conduct your own at-home SEANCE!! Recently, his magic special show called THE ZABRECKY HOUR became available to watch on Prime and I HIGHLY recommend you go right now and check it out. Well, read the interview first, silly. So without further hesitation, I present to you.....ZABRECKY!!!!!!!!

CC: You are such a natural entertainer on stage - especially in your new special The Zabrecky Hour. I'd like to ask a question about when you first started performing magic in front of a crowd.. When you first started, did your years of experience fronting a rock band help you at all in having the confidence to become a magician - or was it an entirely different ballgame for you?

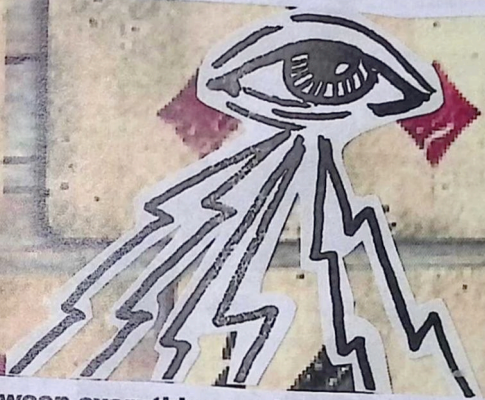
Zabrecky: Ten years as a singer in a rock band definitely paved the way for performing magic. Being in front of an audience, working under controlled lights and sound — those elements were already familiar to me, so stepping into magic felt surprisingly natural. The art forms are different, but the fundamentals of presence and connection carried over in a very helpful way.

CC: I love magic history and learning about performers from the past. Are you a student of magic history? Are there any performers from the past who have inspired you?

Zabrecky: I'd consider myself a student of magic. There are so many performers who have inspired me that it's hard to narrow it down to just a few. My influences shift constantly; one day it might be Dai Vernon, the next it's Yoko Ono. Inspiration comes from both within and far outside the world of magic.

CC: You are a fantastic actor! How did you get into that? I was wondering: was acting something you pursued, or just sorta "fell into" due to your popularity at the Magic Castle and as an onstage performer?

Zabrecky: Thanks. I really fell into acting through magic. One evening after performing at the Magic Castle, a friend asked why I wasn't pursuing an acting career. I didn't have a good answer at the time, and after thinking it over, it didn't seem like a bad idea at all, so I decided to explore it.



CC: Between everything you've done creatively - music, magic, acting, writing a memoir, stage performing, producing video content, and more - what would you say has been the most challenging thing or project you've taken on?

Zabrecky: Writing my memoir, Strange Cures, was by far the greatest challenge. The process took over ten years. Looking back and trying to accurately piece together events was demanding in itself, but finding the right voice as a writer took even longer. It required patience, persistence, and a willingness to keep refining the work over time.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
.....IF YOU DARE!

CC: Here's a fun one: Whenever you go to a flea market or antique store - what kind of things are you always on the lookout for?

Zabrecky: I don't usually go in with a specific shopping list. I really enjoy the element of surprise and prefer to let things find me. I've had good luck with that approach. When you go searching for something specific, especially in places where inventory is so random, it's easy to feel disappointed if you don't find it. So I do the reverse and stay open to whatever turns up.

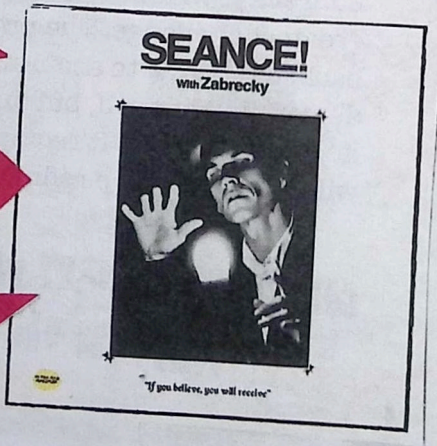
BONUS QUESTION! I love biopic movies. Since you've lived around LA your entire life, who's an LA/Hollywood personality you think deserves their own biopic?

Zabrecky: I wouldn't mind seeing a film about the actor Dennis Woodruff. But I won't give his story away — he's worth looking up. A real LA story.

THANK YOU ZABRECKY!!!!

everybody check out his new special streaming on Prime, add him on instagram (@robzabrecky), check out his book (Strange Cures), and check out his old band Possum Dixon while you're at it!

.....and while i have yer attention: I'm gonna do a GIVEAWAY! I'm going to give a copy of the vinyl record Zabrecky released recently called SEANCE to one lucky reader. See back page for details. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY :)



LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE ENCHANTING LIFE OF THE AMAZING, THE TALENTED *GLORIA DEA*

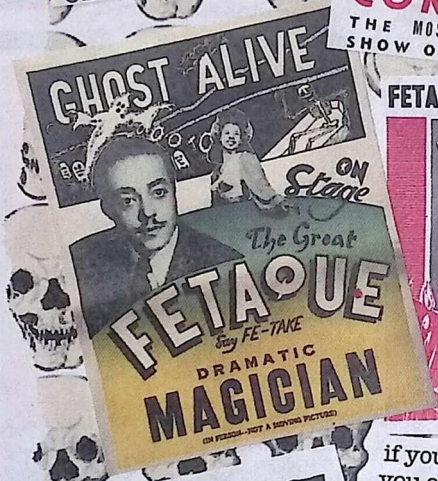
GLORIA DEA was born all the way back in 1922. Her dad was an amateur magician, and you know what they say....it runs in the family! She started performing magic tricks as young as FOUR years old, and by the age of SEVEN she was considered a "working magician!" By age 11 she was a member of the **Pacific Coast Association of Magicians**. In 1941, she became the FIRST magician to perform on the Las Vegas Strip - that's quite an honor since that place is such a magic-industry related hotspot. She began acting in films in the mid-40s, and starred in such features as **King of the Congo** and **The Prodigal**. She became forever immortalized in sci-fi pop culture lore in 1957 after appearing (briefly) in the timeless **Plan 9 From Outer Space**. Soon after, she left the entertainment industry entirely and lived a modest life. In 2022, she turned 100 years old and was celebrated at a magic industry star-studded party in Las Vegas. I was in contact with someone who was asking fans to send birthday cards to her - so I handmade one and sent it! The coolest part was that the event got a lot of press coverage, and the news footage showed her sitting at a table with **David Copperfield** and a stack of birthday cards on the table.....**mine included!** I would have recognized that homemade envelope anywhere. I'm so glad that she had an amazing 100th birthday celebration, and she could see how appreciated she was by countless Las Vegas area magic professionals. She died six months later.. **Gloria Dea was awesome.**

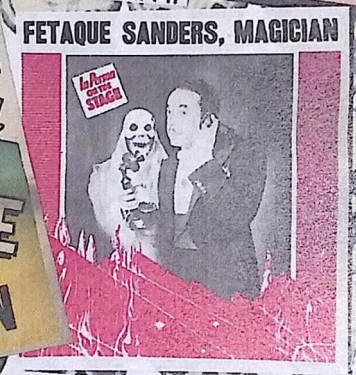
Abracadabra Miss

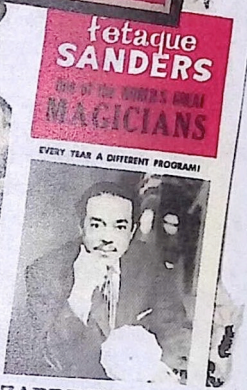
7-Year-Old Girl Adept on Stage at Prestidigitation

FETAQUE SANDERS (1915-1992) WAS A BRILLIANT MAGICIAN FROM NASHVILLE. HERE ARE SOME AWESOME PROMOTIONAL POSTERS FOR YA TO CHECK OUT

COMING
THE MOST AMAZING SHOW ON EARTH







CONTEST CONTEST

if you'd like to enter to win the ZABRECKY record, you can enter by flexing your art / hair style skills! all you gotta do is create a FAR OUT hair style for each member of THE MONKEES, take a pic of your creation, and send it to me on instagram (@culturecringe). or email - culturecringemedia@gmail.com. i will pick a winner and will notify by JUNE 15.

good luck!!!

BE THE Monkees HAIR STYLIST CONTEST